

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA . CRIMINAL ACTION NO.  
 . 4:14-CR-023-A-1  
V. .  
 . Fort Worth, Texas  
ROBERT CHRISTOPHER WEAST . July 22, 2014  
 . . . . .

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
(Pretrial Hearing)  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOHN MCBRYDE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: MS. AISHA SALEEM  
United States Attorney's Office  
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(817) 252-5200

For the Defendant: MS. ANGELA R. SAAD  
Federal Public Defender  
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Court Reporter: MS. ANA P. WARREN  
U.S. District Court Reporter  
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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript  
produced by computer-aided transcription.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Commencing, 10:30 a.m.)

THE COURT: Good morning.

We're here for a hearing, a pretrial hearing, in Case Number 4:14-CR-023-A, United States of America versus Christopher Robert Weast. Let's see. Ms. Saleem is here representing the government. Ms. Saad is here as attorney for the defendant.

Ms. Saad, why don't you and your client come to the podium a minute.

Mr. Weast, if you would join her at the podium.

DEFENDANT WEAST: I'm not doing this because you're ordering me to. I'm doing this because I have a question for the prosecutor, and I would like you to let me ask one question and I will --

THE COURT: Is that microphone functioning?

DEFENDANT WEAST: Here we go. I'm sorry. Can you hear me now?

THE COURT: I don't think that microphone is functioning. I don't believe it's working. Is either one of them working?

MS. SAAD: I don't think so, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Are any of the microphones working?

Why don't we hold on and see if we can get somebody here. We'll see if we can get somebody here that can turn them up.

1           You all can be seated a minute while we deal with the  
2 microphone problem.

3           (Brief pause in proceedings)

4           THE COURT: Ms. Saad, why don't you and your client  
5 come back to the microphone?

6           Mr. Weast, state your full name for the record.

7           DEFENDANT WEAST: James Joseph Smith, sir, and I have  
8 one -- I have two questions for the prosecutor.

9           THE COURT: What did you say your name is?

10          DEFENDANT WEAST: James Joseph Smith, and I have two  
11 questions for the prosecutor. I have this question:

12          Since there is no injured party in this case, then I have  
13 to assume it's a commercial crime. So where is the bid bond  
14 for this case?

15          Also, what jurisdiction are we operating in, ma'am?

16          THE COURT: Mr. Weast, don't interrupt the  
17 proceeding. I'm trying to go forward --

18          DEFENDANT WEAST: I'm not trying to interrupt your  
19 proceeding, sir. I'm not trying to address the Court at this  
20 moment. I'm trying to address the prosecutor who is suppose  
21 to -- by the rules of the Court is suppose to prove the  
22 jurisdiction on and for the record, and I would like to know  
23 where is the bid bond since there is no injured party in this  
24 case. So, therefore, I must assume that this is a commercial  
25 crime. Where is the bid bond that is required by the same

1 rules of this Court that you're suppose to put into evidence?

2 THE COURT: Mr. Weast, I want to try to explain to  
3 you the procedures that we're going to follow. If you will  
4 listen, I'll explain those to you.

5 Why are you using a name different from your real name,  
6 Mr. Weast?

7 DEFENDANT WEAST: Because that is not my real name.  
8 You're looking for some fiction, sir, and I am not your  
9 fiction.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 DEFENDANT WEAST: And I'm sorry. According to the  
12 Maxims of Law where -- a fiction cannot stand where the  
13 reality has come into play.

14 THE COURT: Your case is going to trial before a jury  
15 this coming Monday. We're going to select a jury Monday  
16 morning --

17 DEFENDANT WEAST: Sir, like I said, I'm wishing to  
18 challenge the jurisdiction, and I'm asking the prosecutor to  
19 prove the jurisdiction on the record. I'm not addressing the  
20 Court. I'm asking the prosecutor to prove the jurisdiction on  
21 and for the record in this court, and where is the bid bond  
22 that is required since this must be a commercial crime and  
23 you're trying to get me to contract with you, and I refuse to  
24 contract -- it's against my will to contract with you, ma'am.  
25 So where is the bid bond that you have to have in order to

1 bond this claim?

2 THE COURT: Mr. Weast, please listen to what I'm  
3 saying --

4 DEFENDANT WEAST: Sir, I don't understand what you're  
5 saying because you're trying to avoid my question to the  
6 prosecutor, and it's a simple question. I'm not trying to be  
7 disruptive to this Court. I'm just trying to ask a simple  
8 question. Where is the bid bond that she is required to  
9 produce, which is to bond this claim in order for this Court  
10 to even be having this? Where is that?

11 Ms. Aisha Saleem, the government, where is this claim -- I  
12 mean, where is this bond that you're suppose to have?

13 THE COURT: Mr. Weast, maybe I can answer your  
14 question if you can express it in terms that I'll understand.  
15 What is your question?

16 DEFENDANT WEAST: My question is, where is the bid  
17 bond that the government is required to have in order to  
18 pursue this claim?

19 THE COURT: Where is the what kind of bond?

20 DEFENDANT WEAST: Bid bond.

21 THE COURT: I don't believe there is such a --

22 DEFENDANT WEAST: Yes, there is a bid bond. She's  
23 required to have a bond that's called a bid bond --

24 THE COURT: We're going to --

25 DEFENDANT WEAST: -- and I am trying to address the

1 United States Attorney, who knows what I'm talking about --  
2 and you do, too, sir, the bond that she is required to have in  
3 order to be carrying forward a commercial crime.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Weast, we're going to have to go  
5 forward --

6 DEFENDANT WEAST: No, sir. This Court cannot move  
7 forward as long as there is a challenge to the jurisdiction,  
8 and I am addressing the prosecutor to put on and for the  
9 record the proof of the jurisdiction of this Court.

10 What jurisdiction are we operating on, ma'am, because I  
11 have yet been able to find it?

12 THE COURT: Mr. Weast, the jurisdiction of this  
13 Court --

14 DEFENDANT WEAST: This is not for the Court to  
15 answer, sir. This is for the prosecutor to answer.

16 THE COURT: Do you want me to answer the question as  
17 to what the jurisdiction --

18 DEFENDANT WEAST: No, sir. I would like for the  
19 prosecutor to answer what jurisdiction she brought this claim  
20 in.

21 THE COURT: Okay. It's apparent that the defendant  
22 will not cooperate in any respect --

23 DEFENDANT WEAST: I am not the defendant, sir. I am  
24 me, and the defendant is some fictitious entity that you all  
25 have created.

1           THE COURT: Do you want to know what procedures we've  
2 developed --

3           DEFENDANT WEAST: No, sir. I would like for the  
4 prosecutor to offer on and for the record the proof of the  
5 jurisdiction of this Court.

6           THE COURT: For the benefit of the attorneys, we're  
7 going to pursue the procedures that we discussed in a  
8 telephone conference. Apparently, the defendant does not want  
9 to participate --

10          DEFENDANT WEAST: I am not the defendant, sir. I  
11 would like for this Court to prove on and for the record that  
12 I am the fictitious entity that this Court is pursuing because  
13 I am not that fictitious entity. I am not that fictitious  
14 person. I am not a fictitious corporate soul. I am a living,  
15 breathing human being, sir. I am the voice of God as far as  
16 this Court is concerned because the people are the voice of  
17 God, and you know what I'm talking about, box day (phonetic),  
18 sir, Maxim of Law, box day. The voice of the people is the  
19 voice of God.

20          THE COURT: Mr. Weast, do you have any desire at all  
21 to participate --

22          DEFENDANT WEAST: First off, sir, if you don't  
23 address me lawfully -- my name is not Mr. Weast. It's  
24 Mr. Joseph Smith, and you cannot address me by any other name  
25 than my lawful name.

1 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to remand the defendant  
2 to custody so --

3 DEFENDANT WEAST: Who is the defendant, sir, because  
4 my name is James Joseph Smith?

5 THE COURT: Okay. The defendant is remanded to  
6 custody so we can discuss some legal matters.

7 DEFENDANT WEAST: Sir, you can avoid the questions  
8 all you want, but the question to the prosecutor is, where is  
9 the bid bond?

10 (To the marshals) I'm not property. So quit throwing me  
11 around.

12 (Defendant is removed from the courtroom at this time)

13 THE COURT: Okay. Now that the defendant is out of  
14 the room, we can proceed.

15 It's apparent that the defendant is not willing to  
16 participate in the trial on a meaningful basis. So we're  
17 going to have to pursue the procedures that we discussed by  
18 telephone yesterday.

19 I haven't heard whether we can set it up where the  
20 defendant will be able to see the individual prospective  
21 jurors --

22 (Brief pause in proceedings)

23 THE COURT: I don't know whether we're going to be  
24 able to arrange it where the defendant can see the individual  
25 jurors during the voir dire, but we're going to work towards



1 that end. If he can't, at least he will have audio where he  
2 can hear what is going on in the courtroom. And then I'll  
3 leave it up to you, Ms. Saad, to see if the defendant wants to  
4 cooperate in helping decide who the challenges should be  
5 exercised against.

6 Do you have any sense that the defendant does want to  
7 actually be in the courtroom and participate in the trial on a  
8 meaningful and appropriate way?

9 MS. SAAD: Your Honor, Mr. Fleury and I attempted to  
10 speak with Mr. Weast this morning, but he did not speak with  
11 us. So I have no indication one way or another about his  
12 request -- or preferences other than the previous ones of  
13 wanting to represent himself, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. I think we've done all we can do  
15 today. We'll explore further what we can do on the voir dire  
16 to enable the defendant to see the examination of the panel,  
17 at least the individual members when they stand up.

18 Do either -- does either attorney think there's anything  
19 else we can accomplish today?

20 Apparently, not.

21 MS. SALEEM: Not from the government, Your Honor.

22 MS. SAAD: No, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you all for being here.

24 (End of proceedings, 10:45 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter, and that the transcript was prepared by me and under my supervision.

s/ Ana P. Warren  
Ana P. Warren, CSR #2302  
U.S. District Court Reporter

July 23, 2014  
Date

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